

REMARKS

In The Claims:

Claims 1-21 are now pending in the application. Claim 21 is a new claim. Support for claim 21 can be found at page 20, lines 1-19, as originally accepted in the U.S. National Stage. Claims 1-20 have been amended to correct obvious errors or change their dependency, or improve their form. The dependency of claims 5 and 6 was changed to depend from claim 4. The dependency of claims 9-13 and 17 was changed to depend from claim 1. Claim 16 was cancelled and the limitation "to form a hydrotreated product" was added to claim 1.

In The Specification:

An abstract of the disclosure is provided on page 6 of this communication.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sawyer (EP 0 419 266) in view of Velenyi (USPN 4,808,563). Applicants respectfully disagree, and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the following.

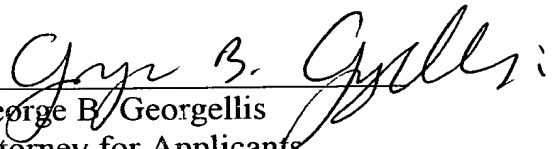
Applicants' claims require a bulk multimetallic catalyst comprised of at least one Group VIII non-noble metal and at least two Group VIB metals. For example, applicants' invention requires the simultaneous presence of both W and Mo in a bulk Ni-Mo-W catalyst precursor. This combination results in a surprisingly increased activity as compared to the bulk Ni-Mo precursor or Ni-Mo sulfide. None

of the cited references describe the use of the inventive Ni-Mo-W catalyst combination. The claimed combination provides unexpected high activity.

The Examiner suggests that Sawyer discloses a process wherein a Group VIII non-noble metal is selected from Ni and Co and the Group VIB metals are selected from Mo and W. Applicants respectfully disagree. Sawyer describes a catalyst having two Group VIII and one Group VI component. Applicants' claimed method as amended employs a catalyst that includes two Group VIB components and one Group VIII component. Applicants' method is advantageous because, inter alia, the use of the inventive bulk multimetallic catalyst provides unexpectedly high activity. Velenyi also does not disclose applicants' inventive catalyst.

Thus, for at least these reasons, applicants' invention is not obvious over the combination of Sawyer and Velenyi. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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☒ Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.34(a)

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